

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 NEA-10 IO-12 RSR-01

SCEM-02 EB-11 /186 W

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P 171700 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9298

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, US, AG

SUBJECT: NEWSOM NORTH AFRICA VISIT: US- ALGERIAN RELATIONS

1. LE MONDE' S ALGIERS CORRESPONDENT WRITING ABOUT NEWSOM VISIT IN APRIL 18 EDITION QUOTES ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM' S COMMENT THAT TALKS WITH ALGERIAN OFFICIALS WERE HELD IN " CLIMATE OF SINCERITY." WHILE ASSERTING VISIT TO MOROCCO AND TUNIS HAD NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE, CORRESPONDENT STATES THIS WAS NOT CASE OF VISIT TO ALGIERS IN VIEW OF BREAK IN ALGERO- AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAINTAINED AT ALGERIAN INITIATIVE SINCE SIX- DAY WAR. CORRESPONDENT ADDS PARENTHETICALLY THAT " PART- ICULARLY DYNAMIC" AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION HAS CONTINUED TO EXIST IN SWISS EMBASSY IN ALGIERS. ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT AFTER AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM VIET- NAM, SOLE IMPORTANT OBSTACLE IMPEDING RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS US MIDDLE EAST POLICY, BUT THESE DIVERGENCES OF VIEW HAD NOT PRE- VENTED GROWING DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. LE MONDE CLAIMS THAT ALGERIAN EXPORTS TO US HAVE RISEN FROM \$20 MILLION IN 1971 TO MORE THAN \$97 MILLION IN 1972, WHILE AMERICAN EXPORTS TO ALGERIA HAVE RISEN

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FROM \$82 MILLION TO \$104 MILLION. LE MONDE STATES MR. NEWSOM REAFFIRMED THAT HE WAS AN " ARDENT DEFENDER" OF IMPROVEMENT IN ALGERO- AMERICAN RELATIONS THROUGH ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND GIVES HIM CREDIT FOR BEING " ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS " OF IMPORTANT BANK LOAN FOR EL PASO PROJECT.

2. SPECULATING ABOUT FUTURE, CORRESPONDENT CONCLUDES THAT IN A FEW YEARS TIME, WHATEVER THE POLITICAL RISKS MAY BE, UNITED STATES WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL MARKET FOR ALGERIAN HYDROCARBONS, AND PERHAPS ALSO WINE, THEREBY PLAYING ROLE WHICH FRANCE HAD UNTIL 1971.

3. COMMENT: FRENCH PRESS HAS BEEN TAKING INCREASING INTEREST IN SCOPE OF US RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, IN PART BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVE THAT, AS LE MONDE CORRESPONDENT ARGUES, USG IN ECONOMIC TERMS IS WELL ON WAY TO SUPPLANTING FRANCE FROM PREPONDERANT POSITION OF ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN ALGERIA. DECONTROL 12/31/74.

IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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